

REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Patel during the personal interview conducted June 13, 2006. Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 31-40, 71-72, and 89-96 are active in the present application. Claims 1-30, 41-70, 73-86, and 87-88 are canceled, Claims 37 and 71-72 are amended, and Claims 92 and 93 are added by the present amendment. The Claim amendments and new Claims find support throughout the disclosure, at least at FIGs. 14a-b and 16a-b. Thus, no new matter is added.

Claim 37 was objected to because of an informality in the Office Action. Claims 37 and 71-72 are amended herewith to address informalities. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to Claim 37 be withdrawn.

Applicant notes the Examiner's indication of allowability with regard to Claims 34-37, 39, 40, 71, 72, and 91

During this interview, the Examiner reconsidered the limitations recited in Claim 31 and indicated that Brown et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,188,164, herein "Brown") did not teach at least "one or more frame retaining tabs crimped around a portion of said frame." For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicant provides the following remarks.

Art Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

The outstanding Office Action rejects Claims 31-33, 38, and 87-90 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Brown. As discussed during the personal interview, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 31 recites, *inter alia*, an elongated frame and a “stem clamp having one or more frame retaining tabs crimped around a portion of the frame.” In non-limiting exemplary embodiments, Figs. 14a-b illustrate a frame 116 mechanically supported by a stem assembly 118. Turning to Figs. 16a-b, a stem clamp 122 of the stem assembly 188 includes tabs 134, 136. By crimping upper tabs 134 about a portion of a leg 128 of the frame 116, the integrity of the mechanical support can be maintained (Specification at p.17, l.13 – p.19, l.17).

In contrast to the recited features, Brown describes a mount assembly 9 including banding straps 11, 12 and a mount frame 14. Banding straps 11, 12 have crimp sections 11a, 11b, 12a, 12b and mount frame receiving areas 11c, 11d, 12c, 12d. Areas 14c of the rods 14a and 14b are received into the mounting frame receiving areas 11c, 11d, 12c, 12d and fixed therein, preferably by welding (Brown at FIG. 2 and Col. 2, l. 14-53). It is respectfully submitted that Brown does not teach or suggest frame retaining tabs crimped around a portion of the frame as claimed in Applicant’s Claim 31.

The outstanding Office Action at page 3 improperly asserts that Brown includes “frame retaining tabs (element 11a, 11b, 11c or 11d) crimped around a (lower) portion of [the] frame (14).” Unlike the uniform characterization of the tabs of Brown by the Office Action, Brown explicitly distinguishes between the crimp sections 11a, 11b and the

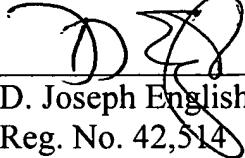
mount frame receiving areas 11c, 11d (Brown at Col. 2, l. 22-32). In particular, the open crimping sections 11b, 12b are crimped to themselves to have a sliding fit during a crimping operation, and not crimped around a portion of the frame as explicitly recited in Claim 31. The receiving areas 11c, 11d (and 12c, 12d) are neither taught nor suggested to be crimped around the frame 14; instead, areas 14c of the rods 14a and 14b are received into the mount frame receiving areas 11c, 11d, 12c, 12d (Brown at Col. 2, l. 41-53). Accordingly, Brown does not teach or suggest all features recited in Applicant's Claim 31, including retaining tabs crimped around a portion of the frame.

Furthermore, Brown's mount assembly is provided with the express purpose of avoiding tension as it is affixed to the glass stem of the lamp to reduce breakage during assembly (Brown at Col. 2, l. 58-61). As noted above, Brown neither teaches nor suggests the crimping of the mount frame receiving areas 11c, 11d, 12c, 12d. Moreover, given the objective of Brown to release excess tension, hindsight-motivated crimping of these frame receiving areas 11c, 11d, 12c, 12d would likely increase tension and lead to the breakage of the glass stem during assembly. Therefore, the withdrawal of the art rejection of Claim 31 and all Claims dependent therefrom is respectfully requested.

New Claims 92 and 93 are directed to structures and devices for mounting an arc tube. These claims are provided in light of the Examiner's previous indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the new claims do not raise additional issues and are allowable over Brown.

In view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance, and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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